

Manchester Still FREE 5p PRESS

So much
for inflation

THE NEWS
YOU'RE NOT
SUPPOSED
TO KNOW

YOU'LL FIND THE
BEST SOIL CONDITIONS
FOR URBAN MOTORWAY
ROUTES ALWAYS LIE
IN INARTICULATE,
UNORGANISED,
WORKING CLASS
SORT OF AREAS



ROAD TO RUIN

THOUSANDS OF MANCHESTER people are preparing to defend their homes at public inquiries into clearance orders. Others are being threatened by road proposals, some of which are not due to start for up to fifteen years.

But as Stockport people on the various routes for the A6 knew full well, a road plan means blight. In Chorlton, Fallowfield and Levenshulme a road is scheduled to start in 1987. Yet already one house is bricked up, people are

finding it difficult to sell their houses - and in the end the road may never be built. It's called the D23. We look at how a line on a planner's map is affecting people's lives on pages six and seven.

Issue 20



INSIDE STORIES

ALF & ADA



ALF and ADA are on holiday in Blackpool for a bit of Tory bashing but Harold Hedd takes over for this month.

BYE, DUCIE?

The Ducie fights for survival on Page 10

WOTS ALL THIS?



NCCL in Manchester takes the offensive as the chief constable prepares a secret report. Pages eight & nine.

NASTY WAYS

Strangeways: a case of negligence. Page 8

YOU'RE ALL A LOAD OF RUBBISH

Daisy's Diary Page 7

WHAT'S NEW

What's on, books, films and other goodies.

AND LOTS MORE INSIDE

Health hazard

Dear Free Press, The "very high risk of lung cancer" which you associated with asbestos in the last issue is not, by any means, the whole story about the health hazards of this dust.

There is now preliminary evidence to suggest that there is a particularly dangerous relationship between smoking and exposure to asbestos dust. Also, asbestos can cause cancer of the intestine and of the ovary as well as cancer of the lungs.

Surveys have shown that 30 per cent of the general public who have had no heavy contact with the dust, have small traces of asbestos fibre in their lungs because of the widespread pollution. A more dangerous type - known as blue asbestos from South Africa - has been banned in this country as it is ten times more likely to cause cancer. Black South African workers, however, still have to mine it and demolition workers in this country are at risk when they knock down old buildings in which it has been used.

Yours
F Rathbone
Oldham

Sexist banana

Dear Free Press, Your picture of a nude woman in an unzipped banana is totally



PUBLISHED by Manchester Free Press Group, 45 Aspinall Street, Manchester M14 5UD (061-

PRINTED by Moss Side Press, 136 Withington Road, Manchester 16 8FB (061-226 3458)

DESIGN by Snail Graphics

ADS: Classified 3p a word
Free inserts in info lists

Display rates on request

DISTRIBUTION by Quicksilver, 100 Oxford Road, Manchester

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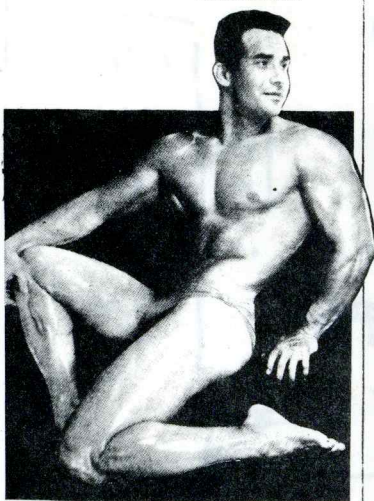
FROM OUR READERS



sexist and bears no relation to the article about Manchester's health report.

Why must so-called alternative papers indulge in these sort of graphics when they claim to be against the exploitation of women?

Linda Burns
Middleton



US: We couldn't find a pic of a man in a banana but just for you here's one having a ripple.

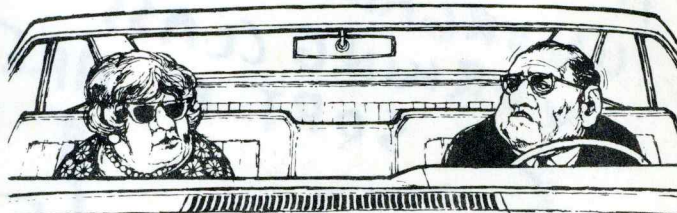
Silent radio

Dear Free Press, Apart from a few specialist magazines, you seem to be the only paper giving extensive coverage to the plans for Manchester's commercial radio - such as they are. With the vested interest of the local newspapers and television and their traditional silence about their

own affairs, the reason is not hard to find. But judging from reports of London's two stations, they are probably worrying more about the advertising rate card than the content of the programmes. When it finally goes on the air in the spring, they'll be telling us it's our station and we ought to use it, so why not start now.

Joan Bennett
Altrincham

IF A LITTLE
AIR POLLUTION
IS ALL WE HAVE
TO PUT UP WITH
TO MAKE LIFE
A BIT MORE
COMFORTABLE
-I'D SAY IT'S
WORTH IT!!



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On the day that the Evening News started a series about the plight of couple trying to find a mortgage for their first home, the paper ran a competition offering a £12,000 second holiday home for would-be speculators.

Manchester University, it seems, is trying to keep its prestige shopping precinct exclusive as well as half empty. An approach by the corporation's social services department for an office unit was turned down, without the knowledge of the agents, because of the "undesirable" people that might be tempted to use it.

For those who still don't know the worst kept bit of political gossip, the "third minister" named in the Young Libs mag *Liberator* is, of course, the handsome Minister for Consumer Affairs Geoffrey Ripon

Young couples unable to get a mortgage for a home will be interested to know that a local building society manager in Wilmslow is moving south and offering his exclusive Bollin Valley house for a mere £23,500.

Very instructive to read the organs of the boys in blue. Police, the monthly mag of the Police Federation, commenting on the strike by Salford social workers against the jailing of colleague David Stowe, remarked that stikes "are against society's laws"

A house in Grafton Street, Mayfair, was sold recently for £3,350,000, making it Britain's most expensive house. The clear profit was £2.6 million

nuff said



Bug war in Beswick

TENANTS living in three high-rise blocks in Beswick have had to share their flats for the past eleven weeks with a plague of bed bugs which no one can get rid of.

On three occasions, the corporation health department sprayed the flats with DDT but it didn't work. The tenants, who have had to suffer their skirting boards ripped up for the spraying, were not told what the bugs were. But

they got increasingly worried when the spray men said that they knew DDT wouldn't do the job. They were using it because they had so much in the depot.

Then at a public meeting with councillors, including Ken Eastham and MP Frank Hatton, they were told there was nothing more that could be done. One public health inspector, however, came to the rescue and suggested that a new type of spray be used. One man is

currently trying this out, without much success.

Meanwhile a sample was taken to the university zoology department and confirmed it was a variety. It is thought that the bugs came from a removal van from flats in houses. The vans - all from the same firm. Sprays - are not spread as a matter of course. The only other alternative is for the people to be temporarily rehoused while the flats are thoroughly fumigated.

One man was rehoused from his particularly badly-infected flat. They moved him one floor down in the same block and he's still got bugs.

Many families are refusing to sleep up in the bedrooms and stay in the living rooms with the lights on so the bugs are distracted from biting them. Bed bugs live off blood and several children have been bitten, some quite badly.

The tenants are now talking of a rates strike protest and they are also threatening to take some of their bugs to infect the town hall council chamber.

Law centre loses out

MANCHESTER'S PRIORITY scheme for urban aid - a neighbourhood law centre - has not been granted any money by the Government. And once again Manchester comes way down the list of cities in the urban aid league table. Coun Joe Dean, chairman of the urban aid sub-committee, told *Free Press* he was "very disappointed" about the government's refusal to fund the scheme. "Making it a top priority shows how important we think a law centre is," he said. He promised that the scheme

would be included in applications for the next phase of urban aid. "Compared with other cities," he said, "it appears that Manchester has not been treated very fairly."

Only nine out of 33 schemes submitted were approved, at a cost of £36,194. This compares with £217,405 for Liverpool and £142,483 for Birmingham. Even Salford gets more with £50,260.

In the meantime, the Manchester branch of the NCCL are planning to ask the Corporation to fund the scheme itself. The Corporation response to this request will show how committed they are to it.

The price of progress

DUNCAN HEYWOOD, one of Manchester's largest chartered surveyors acting as agents for many developments in the city, is not a firm which stands in the way of progress. Only this month partners Ken Bailey and Jeremy Weston were flown over to Europe by Bailey's dashing 22 year old son Peter to expand the business into the EEC. There were rich pickings, they reported on their return. Nearer at home, in Swinton, Duncan Heywood have been trying to speed things along. As agents for Swinton

shopping precinct, they gave the nod to a television rental firm who wanted to move into the precinct in a vacant shop unit. The tv firm, Focus Television Rentals Ltd., duly started the conversion and spent £8,000.

The only trouble was, Swinton town planning committee had already considered an application from Focus for permission to move in. The committee deferred a decision then later turned it down. Some time later they were alarmed to learn that Duncan Heywood, in the meantime, had intimated to Focus that they could go ahead. Naughty Duncan Heywood, said the committee then proceeded to give Focus the lease.

Monster Brickie

IDRIS 'THE BRICKIE' OWEN, Stockport's loveable master builder and part-time MP, has come back from his hols with a real bang. Refreshed, no doubt, with the news that the cost of bricks has gone up by a monster 87%, his latest dramatic plan is to clean up the River Mersey in the town. And there's no reason to mock just because this idea has been kicked around for years.

Out of his very own pocket, Idris is offering to pay 100 guineas (sic) for the best essay and sketch for the clean-up. "Sensible" ideas will even be published in the *Stockport Advertiser*, an organ best known for its legendary tunnel to Tory Party HQ across the road.

Ringway roubles

MOONE, least of all Sir George Ogden, has pointed out in the controversy about which local authority should control Manchester Airport that the clerk of Greater Manchester Council will get an extra £480 a year if Ringway is transferred to the G.M.C. This would give Sir George's salary an extra £1,200 a year.

Less, unfortunately, is known about how close this plan is to being implemented in the Manchester area. This can be seen in the pamphlet issued by the Labour-controlled education committee.

Manchester

teacher cuts is spectacularly excessive when there are still many understaffed schools and classes of over 30 children per teacher. And the DipHE course is so divisive and weighted in favour of the 2 A-level educated middle classes that it makes the binary system (universities and the rest) look positively egalitarian. It is also a cheap way of avoiding commitment to higher education.

The backbone of the strategy suggests the amalgamation/federation/merging of the small teacher training colleges to meet the 1,500 size requirements laid down by the circular, and the transference of the 'spare' student places to the 2 A-level, 2 year DipHE course.

is the fact that the small colleges involved, Mather, Manchester and Elizabeth Gaskell cater for a large section of students without the 2A qualification. And the introduction of the DipHE course will seriously deprive applicants without the mystical 2A levels of the opportunity to continue further education.

Democracy

Max Morris, the president of the NUT, has roughly condemned the committee's proposals, which certainly seems to contradict the ideas put forward in the Labour Party Green Paper of January this year: "We envisage an open system of post-school education where opportunities are accessible to all ..." Clay Cross was never like this.

LEAN BLIND

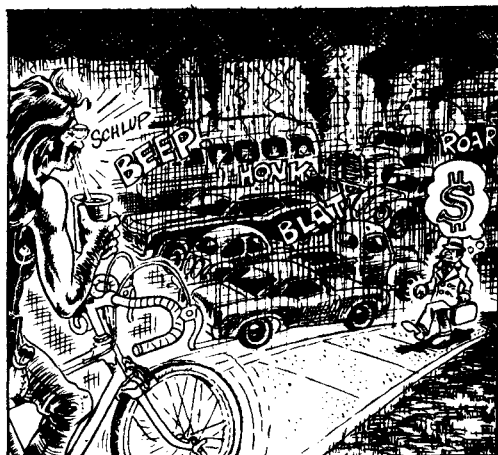
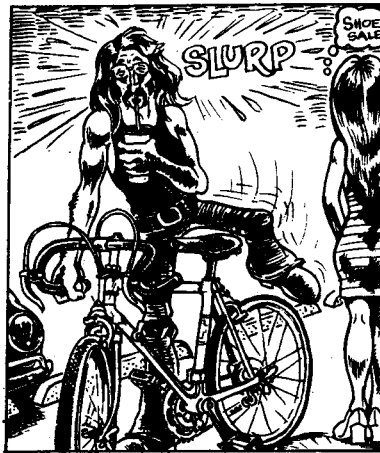
Jobless Joules

180 men will be thrown out of work by this act of profit-mongering. With the local branch of the TGNU, CAMRA will hold the biggest ever demo against the big breweries.

Joules is the oldest brewery in the country, still producing real draught ale instead of the ubiquitous gassy liquid available in most pubs now. Bass Charrington have already shown their displeasure at this unexpected opposition to their greedy plans by tearing down local posters.

CAMRA's address is 207
Keats Court, Salford.

Alf & Ada have gone on holiday & will be back next issue. But here



Libel action

UNDER a threat of libel action because of their stories about Holloway, Inside Story have been forced to print themselves. They are doing this with their own company, Alternative Publishing Ltd., which seems as yet to be a duplicator, typewriter and staple gun. We have agreed to join their Anti-Libel Agreement with other alternative papers which means we will publish the passage alleged to be libellous in any of the papers in the agreement in the future. Co-signatories so far are Peace News and Catonsville Roadrunner.

Yesterday's victims

IN THE light of the Middle East war and the blatant pro-Israeli slant of the British media, it is well to remember that not all Israelis are Zionists. The Middle East Research and Action Group has been formed to provide a leftist anti-Zionist focus in Britain.

It will concentrate on the presentation of information on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and will attempt to undermine the Zionist monopoly on information within the British Jewish community.

This will be done by the distribution of leaflets and direct action. The majority of the group are of Jewish origins.

Last month members of the group held a vigil outside a Jewish synagogue in London and handed out a leaflet, which we reproduce below. The address of MERAG is 5 Caledonian Road, Kings Cross, London N1.

"On the 56th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration (promising a Jewish national home in Palestine - ed), we people of a Jewish background declare our opposition to the States of Israel and the Zionist Movement. We reject the Zionist doctrine that we are expected to support the oppressive policies of the State of Israel which include:

The dispossession of the bulk of the Palestinian-Arab people, confiscation of their lands, destruction of their homes and their mass eviction.

Encouraging Jews to emigrate to the country and further colonize it, guaranteeing Jewish new immigrants automatic citizenship (the Law of Return), whilst denying the Palestinian-Arab exiles their right to return to their homeland. We agree that people be allowed the freedom to live where they wish, but we

insist that in the present circumstances immigration of Jews to Israel is not based on sharing equally the resources of the country, but on dispossession, colonization and occupation.

Systematically violating the elementary human and political rights of the Palestinian-Arab people under Israeli occupation



Pursuing policies of territorial expansion and occupation, waging the 1956 war in support of Anglo-French imperialist policies in the area, and the 1967 war in what the former commander of the Israeli air force termed as "pursuit of national interests."

Pursuit of a reactionary foreign policy, which in

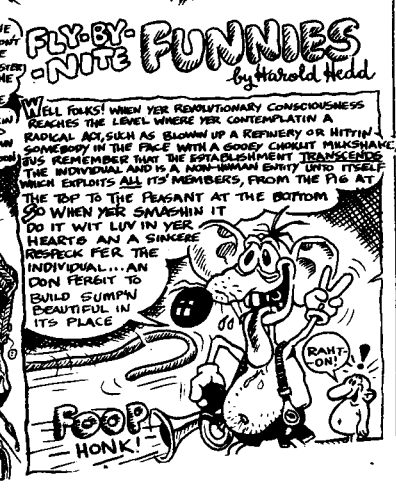
practice includes, or has included, supporting US in Vietnam, France in Algeria, Portugal in Africa as well as continuing close links with South Africa.

Being anti-Zionist does not mean we are anti-Jewish. Nor are we what the Zionists term "self-haters". Indeed, we would hate ourselves if, knowing the truth, we chose to remain silent. Far from being anti-Semitic, we are aware that it is the anti-Semites who have often lent support to Zionism. Zionist political ideology has resulted in some Jews - yesterday's victims - becoming today's oppressors."

Insanity again

MAD MIKE CALVERT, the so-called expert on counter insurgency, who drew up to £90 a week from his research fellowship at Manchester University has fallen on hard times. But that hasn't stopped him spreading a few more lies. In a two part interview on the IRA in the Evening News - for which he gratefully received £30 - he claimed that he was still a fellow in the military studies department when he attended a secret IRA press conference. Readers of Freep (No 17) will know that his fellowship had run out a month before.

is the postcard they sent us - many more available from Grass Roots



Scrapped

Other houses have been bought along the line by the corporation and some of the less familiar features of blight are making themselves felt. Mortgage repayment periods are restricted to 10 or maybe 15 years and improvements to property are not being made because of uncertainty created by the proposals. People living on the line - through Chorlton, Fallowfield and Levenshulme - are acutely aware that the road is being treated as a firm proposal by local authorities, when, for example, property searches are made. And a glance down Whitby Road, Fallowfield, shows a forest of long-standing "For Sale" signs.

Code

The road is called the D23. Plans since the mid-twenties have stated the need for a



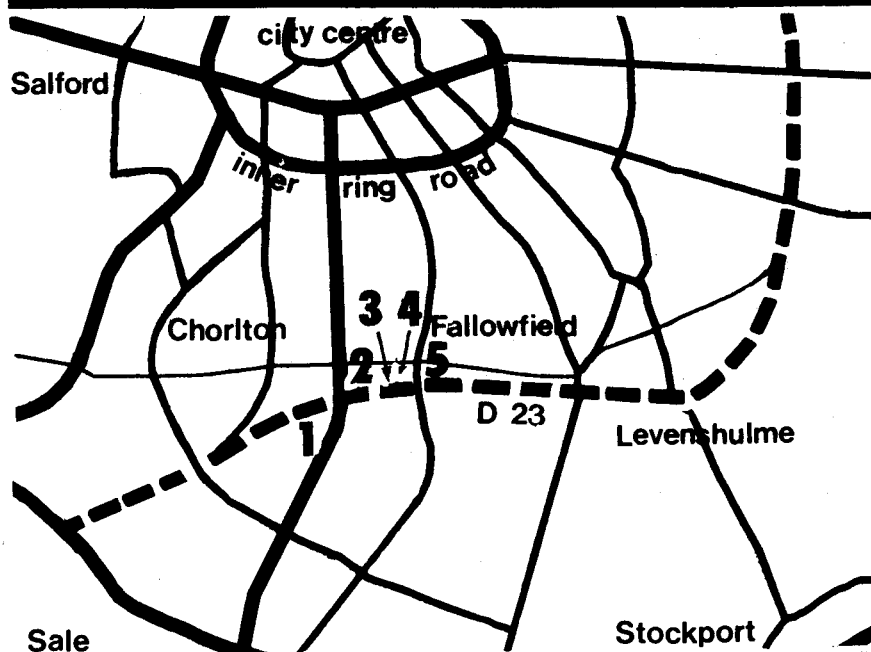
link between Stretford and Denton. In the Manchester Advisory Plan of 1926 it ran along Mauldeeth Road before joining Kingsway and then heading east along Albert Road to Openshaw. In 1945 the City of Manchester Plan moved it north to Wilbraham Road when it acquired the code-name D23.

Searches

The City Development Plan of 61 maintained this line. In 62 Mancunians were presented with the Selnece area highway engineering committee's highway plan (sic) . This and its 71 successor the Selnece Transportation Plan for 1984 felt a better route would be just south of the old Manchester Central/ Guide Bridge railway line. In the course of time, development plans prepared by local authorities will incorporate it into their proposals, although as yet no provision is contained in the highway plan estimates.

In other words, far reaching road proposals have been approved by the constituent Selnece authorities without any public debate. Thousands of people could be affected, especially since the new Land Compensation Act means that more land will have to be acquired. And the D23 is not to built until all the other 1984 roads have been finished. A tentative start date has been put at 1987 by the town clerk, but even this could be optimistic with the growing opposition to huge inner city motorway schemes.

In the meantime, the blight will continue - until the D23 is scrapped in favour of a public transport plan which will meet the real needs of the people in south Manchester.



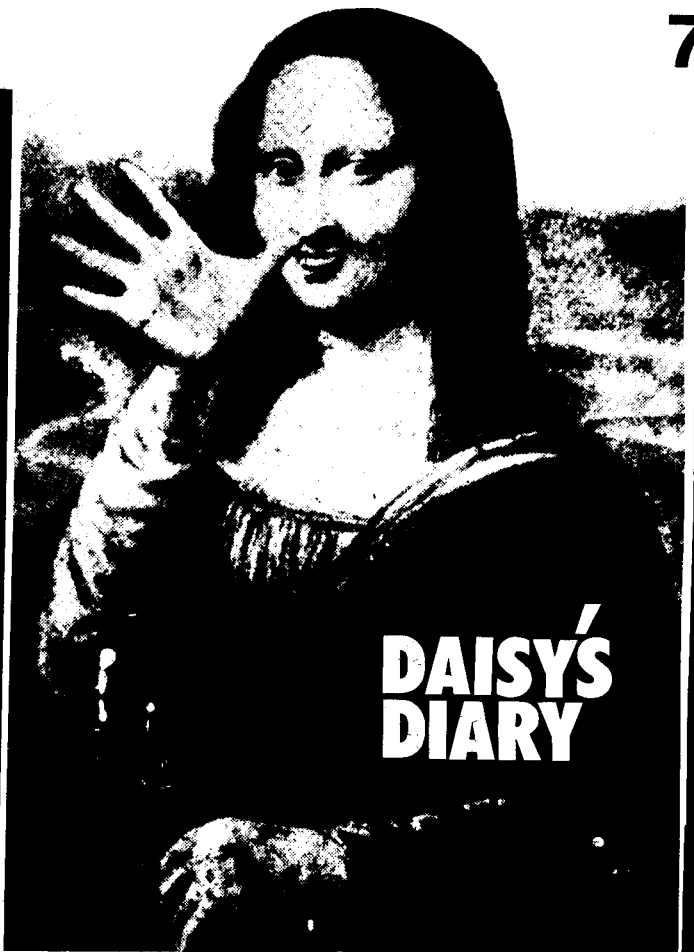
**MANCHESTER
D23 PROPOSAL**

existing road to
be widened

**existing and
proposed
major roads**

**long term
proposal—route
to be reserved**

PICTURES: top left: No 15 Ladybarn Lane Bottom left: residents at the Ladybarn inquiry into the clearance order on their homes Right: types of houses affected on the D23 line, see map (opp) for locations.



Dr Bruce Jackson, eye specialist turned movie freak, is back after his controversial but dismal reign at the Manchester Film Theatre. He is now running one of the Hulme Unit Four cinemas, not a million miles from the sadly declining Great Horrocks, on Jackson Crescent. Very cunning. The cinema has been given the obscure name of Aaben and judging from the first programme he is making the same mistakes all over again with yet another showing of Fantasia. There are, however, one or two interesting films thrown in - better at least than all those skin flicks that Jacey are showing at the old film theatre.

Those ducky boys and girls in blue always make sure of their regular copy of Freep, lovely organ that it is. A panda car drew up outside Grass Roots the other day and out lept two policeladies who rushed in, bought their copy and left, clearly much relieved.

JOURNALISTS on the Evening News are getting increasingly fed up with the series of "star" writers brought in by showbiz editor Redhead. After the Appalling Giles Brandreth - who at least had something to say however obnoxious - they got Andrew Roth, whose painfully stilted English is causing sub-editors to wring their pencils in despair. Now they have got to suffer the pedestrian

thoughts of the lovely Joan Bakewell who is simply boring. The word "controversial" was soon dropped from the puffs about her column when it was realised that she couldn't cause a stir on a becalmed bath tub. The News union chapel is considering making a formal complaint about the low standard of contributors. George Best excepted, of course, although there are considerable doubts as to how long his Friday piece will keep running in view of the past performance on the field.

As any responsible chemist will tell you, a bomb can be made up from weed killer and fertiliser, both of which can be obtained from your friendly corner Boots.

Watch out, kiddies! The British Movement are about. This fascist organisation, founded by the British Nazi Colin Jordan, has been distributing leaflets in Manchester. They are about their fascist rivals The National Front putting up candidates in constituencies where the BM are standing. Both are trying for Wolverhampton North East. They'll be in good company with our Enoch next door.

In its hasty and clumsy attempt to close down the Ducie Arms (see page ten) the University wrote to Whitbread's brewery asking them to cut off the beer. The pub is owned by Watney Mann.

ON OCTOBER 18 the Chief Constable of Manchester Mr W Richards will present a report to the police committee giving a breakdown of complaints against the force station by station.



"I am sure a lot of youngsters are beaten when they come into the hands of the police..."

The report, the first of its kind, was called for by Alderman Bernard Langton, a former chairman of the committee and a keen supporter of civil liberties. Alderman Langton pressed for the details after disturbing reports about police brutality against black kids in Moss Side. Three cases - two of which are going to the courts - caused him particular concern. They were reported by parents of the boys concerned to Councillor Bill Paget who has passed on the details to the revitalised Manchester group of the National Council for Civil Liberties. NCCL plan to compile a complete dossier of similar complaints throughout the Manchester and Salford police area.

Relations between the police and young people in Manchester are poor, according to NCCL chairman Jeff Wilner. The immigrant community, and especially the young West Indians in the Moss Side area, take the brunt of police harassment.

In an interview with Free Press, Mr Wilner, a partner in a Manchester solicitors firm said: "I am sure that a lot of youngsters are beaten when they come into the hands of the police. 'Too many people, mainly parents, are making the same sort of complaint for this not to be so.' Some police stations have a worse reputation than others, with Platt



NCCL TAKES THE OFFENSIVE

Lane and the new Moss Side station near the top of the list. Mr Wilner hopes that the chief constable's report will be published so that an accurate assessment of the complaints can be made.

Most complaints, he says, rarely lead to prosecutions against the police officers involved. "They are never dealt with satisfactorily. Often it takes months for an investigation to be carried out and the answer is invariably the same: the Director of Public Prosecutions says there is not enough evidence to warrant any action."

Mr Wilner supports the view that complaints should be dealt with by an independent body and not by the police themselves. Mr Wilner added that the names of particular officers cropped up again and again in complaints.

As a case for concern he cited the death of lorry driver Edward Platt. 36 year old Mr Platt died on June 18 - two weeks after policemen had forcibly and violently taken him from his home in Moston to hospital.

Before he died Mr Platt wrote a statement alleging that one of the police kicked him twice in the

ribs. In hospital Mr Platt had to have his ruptured spleen removed and at the inquest on October 5 the coroner said: "In my opinion his injuries could have been caused in a struggle to restrain him." Death was due to bronchopneumonia and peritonitis.

The police got involved with Mr Platt in a curious way that was not made clear at the inquest where the jury returned an open verdict. Feeling depressed one night - and described as having a personality disorder whatever that means - Mr Platt phoned for a doctor. The doctor called out the police and that led to the struggle.

Other complaints, said Mr Wilner, arise out of the police powers to search young people without a warrant under the dangerous drugs act.

As expected the DPP later decided that there was no evidence to proceed against the police.

"A great deal of this is going on in Manchester," he said. "And we cannot tell what percentage of searches reveal anything since statistics are not available. This is another area where we want to press for information."



"particular officers cropped up again and again in complaints..."

But it is not only the police who habitually infringe peoples' rights. Children, who have no legal rights under law, are particularly vulnerable. Manchester NCCL has set up a special section to deal with cases which is being co-ordinated by a social worker in Salford.

"Children get into trouble through crime, violence, and truancy, but one cannot be too surprised when you see the sort of conditions and environment they have to live in." He gives an example of a 13 year old girl who lived with her grandmother. For short periods - when for instance the grandmother was ill - the girl was taken into care by Manchester City Council.

Then, after a phone call of uncertain origin to the social services department which claimed that the girl was at risk, she was forcibly taken into care under a place of safety order. This was granted by the magistrates without any real investigation. A case was brought before the courts for a care and protection order but it was dismissed because of lack of evidence. "In the meantime," said Mr Winer, "the girl had been deprived of her liberty for several weeks."



"the immigrant community takes the brunt of police harassment"

Apart from these traditional areas of civil liberties work, Mr Wilner hopes that the group will be able to operate on a much wider basis. "We want to get into tenants' rights, workingmen's rights - the real areas of poverty. The issue of discrimination against women will also become more and more important after the Anti-Discrimination Bill. And we see no reason why we shouldn't involve ourselves in matters that in the past have been dealt with only by trade unions."

Gypsies will continue to be one of the main minority groups singled out for support after the long and bitter fight for a caravan site in Salford. Mr Wilner expects that, in the end, Salford will have to allow them back in the city on a proper site.

The group already run a legal advice service two evenings a week at the Nello James Centre, 136 Withington Road. It is run by solicitors on a rota basis. The main problems are disputes between tenants and landlords, matrimony cases and a few cases involving crime.

CONTACT with NCCL can be made at Mr Wilner's office at 21 Newton Street, or with the secretary Phil Jones of Green and Jones, 31 King Street West

IN THE SECOND AND FINAL extract from the report on Strangeways Prison, much of which we published in the last issue, the ex-inmate relates how a fellow prisoner was treated when he became ill. The report has been published in its entirety by PROP. Apart from ourselves, New Society has also questioned the lack of response to it by the prison authorities or the Home Office.

The following information was obtained from prisoner 820119 William O'Mara who permitted me to see a copy of his petition to the Home Office of his complaint of negligence by the prison hospital staff.

VIOLENT

Prisoner O'Mara was awakened during the night of 2nd June 1973 with violent stomach pains. Believing at first that they were perhaps due to something eaten at tea and that they would soon pass he persevered and tolerated them for some time. Unfortunately the pains did not cease and he experienced an increase in their intensity. So reluctantly he pressed the cell's push-bell for assistance from the night staff. He says "reluctantly" as having already spent two years of his four year sentence in Strangeways he was aware that ringing for cell attendance during the night period is looked upon as some form of criminal act by the night staff.

ABUSIVE

However, prisoner O'Mara continued to both ring and eventually, in desperation, kick at the cell door for attendance until one of the night officers arrived and demanded in an abusive tongue what all the row was about. (I at this point was awakened by the noise as prison-

er O'Mara's cell was next to mine.) Prisoner O'Mara told of his violent stomach pains and asked to see a doctor. The officer's reply was that he could not have one at 5.30 in the morning and for him to report sick to the landing officer upon his cell door being opened. (That would be at the usual time of 7am)

REFUSED

Prisoner O'Mara did just that, but instead of being examined by a doctor he was merely questioned by Senior Hospital Officer L----- who prescribed him with some white medicine. So prisoner O'Mara took his prescribed medicine and waited several hours to see what effect this would have. He found that it had no effect as regards removing or easing the stomach pains. During the afternoon he complained again and was removed to the prison hospital supposedly for observation. Apparently William O'Mara again demanded to be examined by a doctor at this point. Again this request was refused this time by Principal Officer (P.O. B-----) who administered more white medicine.

COMA

O'Mara was locked in one of the hospital cells and left with his suffering until some time in the night of 2nd June or early hours of 3rd June when he awoke (he believed he had been in a coma part of this time) to find Doctor Etang (the doctor on call to the prison) attending to him

Doctor Etang asked B----- why he had not been sent for earlier. B----- merely shrugged his shoulders saying that he had not thought it serious or necessary. Dr Etang immediately rang for an ambulance and prisoner O'Mara was admitted to Salford Royal Hospital some time during the morning of June 3rd. An operation for a gall bladder infection (gangrene?) - this term was used by O'Mara in his petition to the Home

Office.) was conducted that afternoon by a Mr MacLennan, surgeon. The operation was successful and O'Mara was kept in for a couple of days observation before being returned to the prison hospital for further rest and observation.

Afterwards O'Mara petitioned his complaint of negligence against P.O. B----- and Senior Hospital Officer L----- to the Home Office demanding their dismissal from the Prison Service and an early release for himself (this I also read in his prisoner's copy of his petition) due to his unnecessary prolonged suffering and possible serious medical repercussions which could have prevailed.

INTIMIDATION

O'Mara also informed me that before his petition was released from Strangeways he was interviewed independently by Governor Morton and Assistant Governor Richardson several times who tried to dissuade O'Mara from going through with his petition on the grounds that they were extremely serious complaints incurring serious repercussions to himself if they were not true. O'Mara felt that he was being subjected to a form of intimidation by both Governor Morton and A.G. Richardson by their conduct towards him during the interviews. He also says that he has been prevented from contacting anyone or any Human Rights Organisation outside the prison in connection with his complaint other than the Home Office. In short, his complaint against the two officers in question was suppressed within the prison walls.

Prisoner O'Mara gave me permission to relate in full his case to PROP and also to any newspaper who would be willing to publicise his case. He is a man in his fifties who is already under medical treatment for other ailments and he specifically wished for some publicity for his case

STRANGWAYS THE INSIDE STORY PART 2



LAST MONTH Freep looked at the industrial disease asbestosis, in a plant at Hebden Bridge owned by Cape Insulation Ltd. The story was picked up by the Daily Mail & now the BBC are interested too.

As the Daily Mail pointed out, Cape Insulation has so far paid out £500,000 in compensation to its asbestosis victims

This disease, which causes fibrosis of the lungs and is invariably fatal, is caused by inhaling the dust or fumes thrown off by the fibrous mineral asbestos.

Turner & Newall

This month we take a brief look at Turner & Newall Ltd. a local M/C firm. The Turner companies that work with asbestos in Britain include TBA Industrial Products, TAC Construction Materials & Ferodo.

Co	Place	No.asbtestosis cases since '48
TBA	Rochdale & Hendley Green	92
TAC	7 factories incl. Trafford Park	27
FERODO	Chapel-en-le-Frith	22
		<u>141</u>

These figures were supplied by a spokesman for Turner & Newall so they do of course only indicate the number of cases Turner's have records for since 1948. There are probably many more Turner employees/ex-employees who are victims of the disease without even knowing it since the symptoms take so long to

appear. On average, T.& N. claim, 4-5 new cases of asbestosis are diagnosed every year from among these three companies.

The Turner spokesman declined to estimate how much had been paid in compensation in all or even on average to each victim.

The Rochdale company, TBA (formerly Turner Brothers Ltd) which has by far the highest record for asbestosis among these 3 companies, is the same factory that became the subject of investigation in the 1920's because about 80 per cent of the workforce there had contracted asbestosis. The ensuing Report res-

ASBESTOSIS

More cases

As far as the Turner & Newall spokesman could remember, T.& N. has only been prosecuted once by the Factory Inspectorate & that was in 1971 because of a faulty dust extraction unit at TAC. The fine - £25!

Average earnings per employee was £30 a wk in 1972. The 12 Directors however, had £318,000 to share - an average of over £500 a wk. R.M.Bateman, Chairman, topped the list with over £800 a week.

COUGH IT UP LADS - IT MIGHT BE A GOLD WATCH

Each night dear friends I kneel and pray
To the coughing Gods of TBA.
O Lords of hawk & spit and cough
Don't let asbestos see me off.
That deadly dust and Woodbine crave
Will rush me to an early grave
And blend with nicotine aroma
A mesothelial carcinoma.
So as I cough and spit and wheeze
And start to snuff it by degrees
Just draw the blinds, turn down the lamps,
Bang goes my bloody Green Shield Stamps
And for this gasping absentee
My epitaph for all to see
"Now Spinner Sam has passed away
Clocked off with thanks, from TBA
And to St.Peter's realm restored
By kind permission of the Board;
Ashes to ashes, dust to dust,
If the fags don't get you, Turners must"
Lifted from Rochdale Alternative Press.

ulted in the 1932 Asbestos Regulations which were designed to protect workers from the crippling effects of asbestos dust and fumes.

Turner's spokesman claimed that Rochdale now has an average of 2-3 newly diagnosed cases a year. In 1972, there were 2 cases diagnosed. He further claimed that as a result of advanced dust extraction & ventilation equipment, no employees at Rochdale (except maintenance workers) had to wear protective clothing against asbestos dust.

The company claims that it has now 'reduced the risks of contracting any of the diseases in question to an extremely low & socially acceptable level'. Since when was there a 'socially acceptable level' for disease & death?

Profits First

The firm's first duty, as stated in the Annual Accounts, is to the shareholders. Improvements in health & safety are a priority within the firm but they have to be 'phased in' said Turner's PR man, Wilf Howard. When Freep suggested to him that perhaps the shareholders' dividends could be cut or held back for 1 year to pay for immediate improvements, he replied that the shareholders would lose confidence, endangering the firm as a whole & consequently threatening jobs. The policy is profits first, health later.

"All parts of the group will continue to pursue every possible economy in order that the company may earn the highest profit that condition will permit", Chairman 1971.

Save the Ducie

IN DEVAS STREET, just behind the block of University buildings that fronts on to Oxford Road, there's a small pub called the Ducie Arms. It's one of those old, friendly Manchester pubs that used to make the city a happier, more comfortable place to live before the planners got to work. If you go into the Ducie any Friday night you'll find a crowd of local folk musicians who go down there to play traditional music just for the joy of it.

The Ducie is, moreover, one of the few pubs left where local people and students can still mix in about equal numbers to have a good time: most Saturday nights it's packed. And in a couple of months it's due for demolition, as the University planners begin the next stage of their scheme to create an "educational precinct" along Oxford Road.

The landlord and landlady, Michael and Marion Meenaghan,

knew that the axe had fallen when, at the end of September, they received a photocopied letter signed by the town clerk:

Dear Sirs,

The Ducie Arms, 52

Devas Street, All Saints

The University of Manchester are anxious to get possession of this public house for the purpose of demolition as a matter of urgency and I would be grateful if you would arrange to cease trading from the premises in the immediate future."

You can't get much blunter than that. It was further stated that if the Meenaghans would be good enough to get out of the way promptly, alternative accommodation (a council flat) could be found for them. There were vague threats that the corporation might feel called upon, of things didn't go smoothly, to "take legal action to obtain possession of the premises." And just in case the Meenaghans didn't feel like giving up their livelihood there and then, the university contacted

the Ducie's brewery and suggested that they cut off the pub's beer supply to force closure.

For Michael and Marion the Ducie is a way of life. They love the place and the customers are their friends. It's not likely that Michael will be able to find work of the pub closes. So the best remaining pub in the university area, and the people who made it that way, are due for the scrap-heap unless the planners can be stopped.

The University's case for demolition is unusually weak. It's claimed that the pub stands on the site of a proposed landscaped shrubbery for a new teaching block, and that the builders working on the new block may want to use part of the land for a construction site. Since the Ducie's surrounded on three sides by open space, this argument just doesn't stand up, and the only conclusion must be that to the planners a tidy shrubbery is a thing of beauty, whilst a Victorian

pub is just an eyesore.

But the university's view of what's good for people isn't going unchallenged. The Ducie's friends and customers - local residents, students and university staff - are campaigning to keep the pub open. A petition is going round the university and the Hulme council estate. Since there is a compulsory purchase order on the building, the only hope is to change the minds of the university's buildings sub-committee, who could easily reverse the decision without major changes in planning.

A group of the Ducie's friends is to meet the committee chairman soon to argue the case for preservation, and at the time of going to press to focus support, a meeting is planned in the Students' Union on Oxford Road, at 12.45 on October 19. The Union has also undertaken to supply the Ducie with beer if the brewery backs down. There are plans to sit in the pub if the bulldozers arrive unexpectedly.

ADS & INFO

SEXY

A Transsexual Liberation Group has been set up in Manchester. Contact L Stothard, flat 2, 40 Mayfield Road, Mchr 16.

WOMEN

WOMEN'S LIB GROUPS contacts:

North Manchester: Val 'n' Shiela 25 Orange Hill Road, Prestwich

Didsbury: Chrissie Farley, 7 Gaddum Road, M20. 445 4669

Central: Jill Walker, 14 Clare Road, M19. 442 8822

Chorlton: Mary, 881 0028

South Manchester: Gill

Armitage; 338 Glebelands Road, Sale. 973 5389

Rochdale: Pam Crux, 21 Law Street, Sudden, R. 29 39725

Stockport: Margaret Brittin, 434 1233

University: Jenny Pride, c/o the Union, Oxford Road, Mchr

CLAIMANTS

MANCHESTER CLAIMANTS UNION meets Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 1.30 -4pm at Heatherbank House, 400 Moss Lane East 226 1677

FOUL

FOUL is a new alternative paper coming out every month about football. It is funny, honest and rightly abusive about the national sports writers who began crawling before they could walk and never got off their knees. You can buy it in a few Manchester shops or direct from 19 Chetwynd Road London NW5. Six copies cost 60p

BACKFREES

BACK issues of Free Press from No 4 onwards are available post free at 5p a copy from 45 Aspinall Street, Manchester 14

TRANSPORT

THE INAUGURAL meeting of the Greater Manchester Transport Action Group will be held on October 22 at 7.30pm in the department of town and country planning of Manchester University, Bridgeford Street. The guest speaker will be George Mann, chairman of Selneq, who will put the case for the Picc-Vic line. Everyone welcome

PROP

PROP demonstration and march about the needs of prisoners' wives and families from Crown Square, Mchr, at 1.30pm. October 20. PROP meets every Tuesday, 8pm at 11a Chataway Road, Crumpsall

COMMUNES

THE COMMUNE MOVEMENT has its own organ called Communes and holds regional and national meetings. Copies of the organ and other info from Richard Secombe 3 Longfellow Avenue, Bath, Somerset. Subs £1 plus 20p and 7 saes 9 by 4

GUY

A GUY FAWKES memorial library has been set up at 197 Kings Cross Road, London WC1 with books, leaflets, journals, mags etc. It is open to anyone who wants to use it or build it up by sending anything published on current struggles

LRD

LABOUR research department has brought out a simple booklet for workers trying to get through the jungle of company pension schemes. Copies are 15p from LRD, 78 Blackfriars Road, London SE1.

STILL wanted: back copies of Meccano Magazine. Box 12 Free Press

HUMANIST

MANCHESTER HUMANIST GROUP OCT 17, 8pm at 6 Spring Vale, Hilton Lane, Prestwich "Campaign for Homosexual Equality" by author David Blamires

NOV 7, 8pm at 7 Wakefield Road, Stalybridge. "An approach to self-awareness" by Trevor Ward, membership sec

LOBBY

A NATIONAL LOBBY of the House of Commons against the Unfair Rents Act is being organised by the National Association of Tenants and Residents. Oct 24 from 3pm onwards. The lobby demands will be no more rent rises, no "fair rents", cancel the Clay Cross surcharge, remove the ban on Clay Cross councillors and an end to the housing finance act

COUNTERPRESS

COUNTER Information Services which brought out the controversial anti-reports on British Leyland, RTZ, London property dealers etc, plans to go bi-monthly. The first subject will be the government's anti-inflation policies up to Phase Three,

Future reports will be on national health, education, building, housing and big industries. We shall review them as they are published. CIS have started a subscription scheme for their new venture. £2.00 for 6 issues.

More info from 52 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1 01- 734 8862

PIWTO PRESS has brought out its book for workers called The Hazards of Work, price 80p It is a comprehensive, practical handbook covering accidents, safety, diseases, injury benefits, and a directory of toxic substances. Copies and details of bulk orders at reduced rates from Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalco Road, London NW1

EXTREME RIGHT

We're not sure why they are doing it, but two Tories have produced an extremely well-researched pamphlet on the right-wing in Britain. It costs 25p from Grass Roots Bookshop

FREEP

STREET sell Freep and feel good all over

ADS in this section of Freep are for free so why don't you use it

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a degree
go to any
bookshop

If you want
an education
come to
Grass Roots

Grass Roots
Bookshop
100 Oxford Road

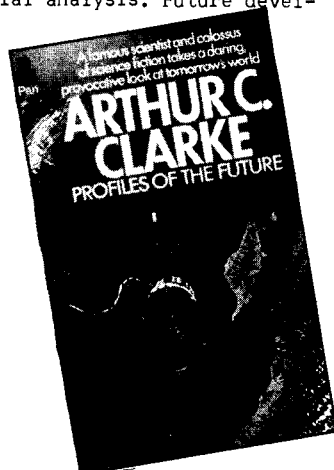
AMERICAN PIE
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PIZZA

At the most original restaurant in Town
Good music Friendly service - and
Reasonable Prices
3 BARTON SQUARE
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★ Gleeful skeletons

PROFILES OF THE FUTURE by Arthur C Clarke. Pan. 40p

A view of the ultimate possibilities of science which contrasts sharply with the pessimistic pre-occupations of most latter day oracles. Clarke represents a tradition where boldness of technological imagination takes precedence over the profundity of social analysis. Future devel-



opments familiar to the science-fiction fan - tele-transportation, antigrav machines etc.-are described in a serious though entertaining and easily comprehensible fashion. A number of the many skeletons littering the cupboard of futurology are gleefully exposed to the light of day. These include statements by eminent scientists denying in no uncertain terms the possibility of all manner of things from space-flight to domestic electric lighting. Despite Clarke's own mastery of science his approach to predicting the future is based not only on logical, reasonable extrapolation from present knowledge but also on unashamed speculation about the fantastic.

FRED STEWARD

★ Feeble

DISCRIMINATION AND POPULAR CULTURE edited by Denys Thompson

Several literary and liberal educationalists get together to write about what's wrong with the Press, television, pop music, magazines etc., in a revamped version of a 1964 collection. New additions are peices on films and "townscapes," an excuse for a poetic ramble through the big industrial city. The authors are naturally concerned about the impact of pop culture on kids, but their solutions of tinkering reforms are too enfeebling for this to be a useful contribution to education.



★ Indian Exploitation

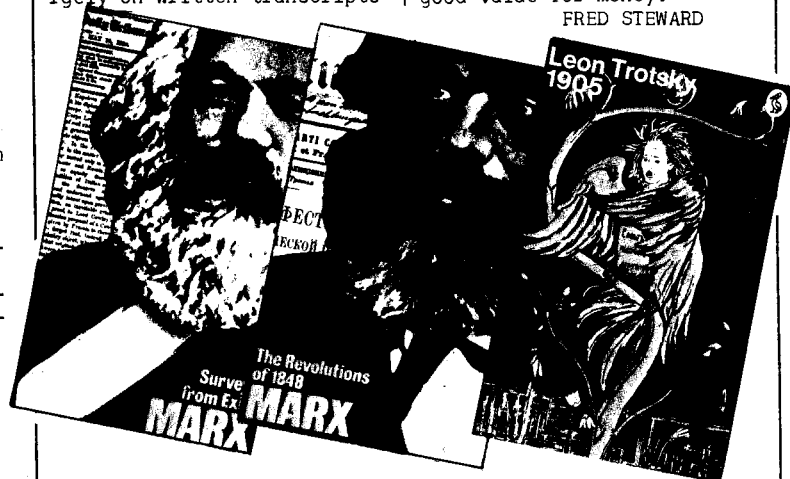


BURY MY HEART AT WOUNDED KNEE by Dee Brown. Pan. 60p

A detailed account of the brutal destruction of the civilisation of the American Indian during the second half of the 19th C. Based largely on written transcripts

of Indian negotiations with the U.S. Govt. of the time it is a valuable contribution to the contemporary Indian struggle to understand their own history and to fight against oppression. 350 pages and over 30 photographs give good value for money.

FRED STEWARD



way to go about spreading it.

★ Read Marx, Brothers

SURVEYS FROM EXILE by Karl Marx Penguin 80p
THE REVOLUTIONS OF 1848 by Karl Marx. Penguin 80p
1905 by Leon Trotsky Penguin 75p

Most book reviewers of the Penguin Marx Library have dwelt mainly on the introductions by the learned political theorists and their conflicting interpretations. Which is OK for students of Marxism who have also got here some of his writings translated into English for the first time. But if Marxism is to become a weapon of the working class struggle, this isn't the

It does take an effort to read his works on economics but this is Marx as the contemporary historian and journalist. And he deals with one of the most tumultuous periods of European history. It makes a refreshing change to see it through the eyes of a socialist observer. Here the young Marx is caustic, fiercely abusive, wide-ranging in his analysis and - dare I say it - entertaining.

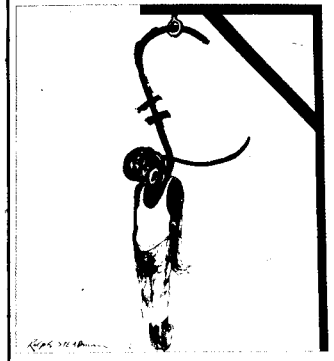
The same can be said of Trotsky's 1905, the story of the first Russian revolution which he led as president of the Petersburg Soviet. This is by far the best first-hand account available and it is written in Trotsky's vivid style.

★ You'd better believe it

The South African Connection

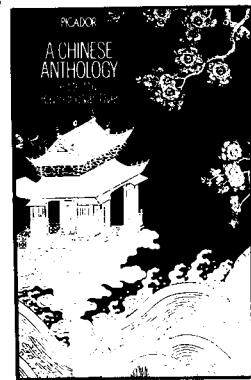
Western Investment in Apartheid

Ruth First, Jonathan Steele, Christabel Gurney



THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONNECTION

by Ruth First, Jonathan Steele and Christabel Gurney Penguin African Library 60p. The hardback version of this was one of the principal guide books for the student campaign against Manchester University's investment in South Africa. Before the Guardian, the TUC and everyone else got in on the act, it told of conditions for black workers in SA and of the close links between British and US capitalism and apartheid. There are detailed researches on major industries and nine case studies.



★ Nice

A CHINESE ANTHOLOGY ed Raymond Van Over Picador 50p

A collection of a wide variety of Chinese short stories and fables from the 2,500 year history of Chinese literature

★ Freaks only

THE ALEPH AND OTHER STORIES Jorge Luis Borges Picador 50p

Contains a selection of Borges fiction covering the period 1933 - 69. Also includes a 40 page autobiographical essay

★ Budrys Bore

ROGUE MOON by Algis Budrys
Arrow. 35p

The exploration of a mysterious Lunar formation by Ed Hawk's research team is a lethal business. Although only 'duplicate' men are sent to face certain death the shock is so great that the duplicate's better half is left a mental wreck. That is until tough Al Barker comes along and successfully survives the experience - again and again.

The author attempts to delve into the personal problems and relationships surrounding this basic theme. Unfortunately he fails to cast any light on these and merely succeeds in getting bogged down in a plethora of trivia and platitudes.

FRED STEWARD

★ Verbalese

PARLIAMENTARY SOCIALISM by Ralph Miliband. Merlin £1.25

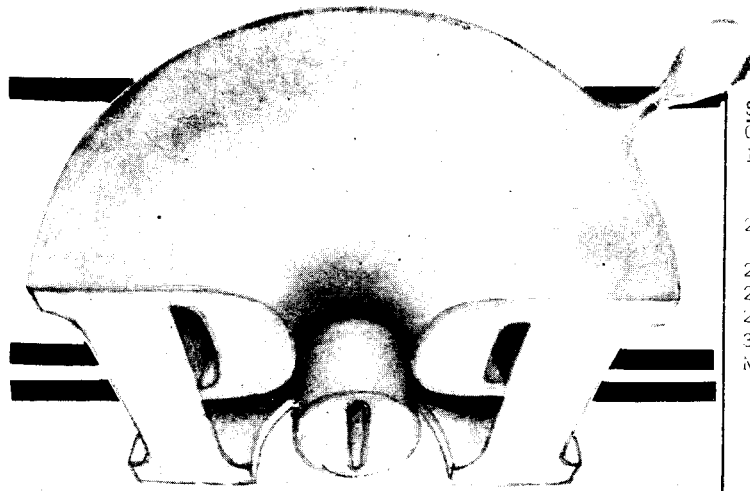
Second edition and re-issue of Miliband's classic study of the Labour Party from its idealistic beginnings up to the arrival of Harold Wilson. His reluctant conclusion is that the record shows sell outs all along the line. The repeated pattern is of Labour leaders being elected on the strength of left-wing verbalese whilst fighting against a right wing only to forget their threats and promises once in office. A postscript specially added for this edition analyses the record of Wilson's governments in the 60's and shows that the half-hearted reformism continued unabated and unrefreshed by any new ideas.

Butch Svengli

★ Bulldozed

POVERTY: THE FORGOTTEN ENGLISHMEN, by Ken Coates and Richard Silburn
Pelican 45p

This Special reprint, first published in '70, is brought up to date with a short forward which concisely shows that poverty is still on the increase. It exposes the Heath doctrine of "concentrating help where it is most needed" as a shabby lie. The rest is about the problems and experiences of people living in a slum. This one, in Nottingham, has now been bulldozed and redeveloped with Wimpey houses but the story is a mirror of what people are facing in Manchester and elsewhere today.



FREE TRADE HALL 834 0943

October
19th Christy Moores Planxty
20th Jacques Loussier Trio
22nd Nazareth
24th The Fivepenny Piece
27th Glasgow Phoenix Choir
28th Roxy Music
30th Victor Borge
31st Darryl Way's Wolf

NB: Freep was unable to check these dates because the Free Trade Hall was always too busy to co-operate.

OPERA HOUSE 834 1787

October
21st The Four Tops & The Detroit Spinners
28th Sacha Distel

BELLE WUE 223 1331

October
26th Salute to Sousa
November
1/2nd The Who
Coming Soon: Gary Glitter & Elton John

STONEGROUND 223 9107

October
19th Thunderclap Newman, Roger Ruskin Spear & Mongrel
20th Manfred Mann's Earth Band
21st Warhorse
27th Edgar Broughton's Band
28th Ingroville
31st Nektar
November
3rd Brian Auger's Oblivion Express
4th Stray Dog
7th Can
9th The Sensational Alex Harvey Band
11th Hallyon
16th Bedlam
17th Jack The Lad

HARDROCK 865 6023

October
11th Don McLean
28th 10 CC
30th Humble Pie
November
18th Santana

Apologies to the student Unions. We'll include you next issue

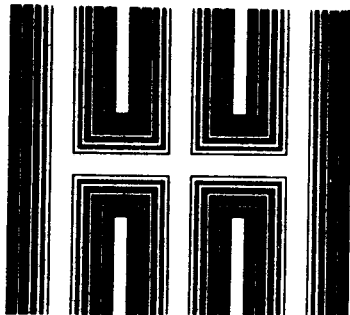
Manchester Polytechnic Oh yeah!



**Wed 31 Oct
Halloween Party
with Fusion Orch
Sat 3 Nov
Ralph McTell
Wed 7 Nov
Blues from USA
Sat 10 Nov
Grimms**

Cavendish House All Saints

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14 FILMS

ABC DEANS GATE 832 5252

October

- 14th Jesus Christ Superstar (1)
Man At The Top 'X' (2)
21st Jesus Christ Superstar (1)
Solaris (2)

ABC ARDWICK 273 1141

October

- 14th Shaft in Africa 'X' &
Private Parts 'X'

UNIT 4 HULME 226 1153

October

- 14th Fantasia 'U' (1)
Staircase 'X' (2)
Kansas City Bomber 'AA' (3)
King Boxer/Superfly (4)
21st Le Voyou 'A' (1)
Cleopatra 'A' (2)
Get Carter/Villain 'X' (3)
They Only Kill Their
Masters/Soylent Green
'AA' (4)

WYTHENSHAW FILM SOCIETY in
The Forum Theatre

November

- 5th Patton: Lust For Glory
26th Great Expectations

M/C & SALFORD FILM SOC at 36
George St, M/C 1

November

- 3rd Happiness (USSR) & A
Page of Madness (Japan)
17th Barravento (Brazil) &
Terra Em Transe (Brazil)

THEATRE

PALACE THEATRE 236 0184

- Oct.8-14 The Festival Ballet
Oct.15-21 Up With People -
folk rock musical
Oct.22-The N.Cheshire Amateur
Operatic Soc.in Cabaret

UNIVERSITY THEATRE 273 5696

- Oct.10-27 Contact Theatre Co
present Look Back in Anger
by John Osborne
Nov.13-20 Stage Society in
The Balcony by Genet

LIBRARY THEATRE 236 7406

- Oct.9-27 How The Other Half
Loves by Alan Ayckbourn
Oct.30-Nov.17 The Imaginary
Invalid by Molière

FORUM 437 9663

- Oct.10-27 The Imaginary In-
valid by Molière
Oct.31-Nov.17 Cat On A Hot
Tin Roof by Tennessee
Williams

OPERA HOUSE 834 1787

- Oct.23-27 Glyndbourne Touring
Company
Oct.29-Nov.10 The Actors Co
performing The Way of
The World by William Con-
greve & The Wood Demon
by Anton Chekov

OCTAGON THEATRE 0204 20661

- Until Oct.20 Love On The Dole
By Ronald Gow & Walter
Greenwood
Oct.22-Nov.3 Charlie Girl by
David Heneker & John
Taylor
Nov.6-Dec.1 All My Sons by
Arthur Miller

EVENTS



NEW OXFORD 236 8264

October

- 14th A Touch of Class

STUDIO 1-5 236 2437

October

- 14th Shaft In Africa 'X' &
Private Parts 'X' (1)
I Am Available 'X' &
Any Special Way 'X' (2)
Erotic Witchcrafts 'X'
Lips Of Blood 'X' (3)
Scarecrow 'X' & Class
'44 'AA' (4)
Man At The Top 'X' &
The Chinese Connection
(5)

STUDIO 6-9 83+ 3580

October

- 14th Shaft in Africa 'X' &
Private Parts 'X' (6)
Butch Cassidy & The Sun-
dance Kid 'A' & Mash (7)
Cabaret 'X' (8)
Love In The Afternoon 'X'
& Unfaithful Wife 'X' (9)

GAUMONT 236 8264

October

- 14th Fist of Fury 'X'
19/ Marat Sade (Late night)
20th
26/ Pictures of an Exhibition
27th (Late night)

CLASSICAL

FREE TRADE HALL

October

- 11th James Loughran
Pinchas Zukerman

HAYDN: Symphony No.6 in C;
BRAHMS: Violin Concerto in D;
LUTOSLAWSKI: Con. for Orchestra

- 13th Salford Choral
Society

BEETHOVEN: Mass in D

- 14th Stuttgart Chamber
Orchestra
Karl Munchinger

BACH: Orchestral Suite No.2
B minor Violin Con. in A
minor; Brandenburg Con. No.3 & 4

- 17th/ James Loughran
18th Tamas Vasary

WEBER: Overture Oberon; BRITTEN:
Simple Symphony; LIZST: Piano
Con. NO.2; BEETHOVEN: Symphony 7

- 21st Vladimir Ash-
kenazy

Piano Recital

- 25th Lawrence Foster

MAHLER: Symphony No.7 in E min.

November

- 4th Owain Arwel
Hughes
Rafael Orozco

ELGAR: Intro. & Allegro for
strings; RACHMANINOV: Piano
Con. No.3 in D minor; SIBELIUS:
Symphony No.1 in E minor

- 6th BBC Northern
Symphony Orch

BACH: Suite No.3 & Branden-
burg Con.No.3; HANDEL: Silete
Venti & Music for Fireworks

- 8th James Loughran
Clive Lythgoe

ROSSINI: Overture Signor Brus-
chino; BLISS: Piano Concerto;
PROKOVIEV: Symphony No.5

FORUM

November

- 12th Louis Kentner

LIZST: Annees de Pelerinage;
BEETHOVEN: Appassionata Sonata

CLUBS

GOLDEN GARTER 437 7614

October

- 15th Peter Gorden
22nd The Bachelors

November

- 5th Mike & Bernie Winters
12th Ronnie Dukes & Rickie
Lee

WILLOWS VARIETY CENTRE 7368541

October

- 17th The Endevors, Denis Wayne
18th The Dooley Family
20th Jimmy Crawford Blend
21st Ray Leslie
25th Mark Channing
27th Greengage
28th Duffle Button

November

- 1st Old Time Music Hall
3rd Maxton G. Beesley
4th Sam & Samantha
7th The Ivy League
8th Guys & Dolls
10th The Abbey Road
14th Denis Law Testimonial
Evening: The Chants &
Jackie Carlton

CONCORD 370 1367

October

- 18th Desmond Decker (1 night)
25th Dave Berry (1 night)

TALK OF THE NORTH 789 1767

October

- 14th Ben E. King
21st New Vaudeville Band,
Norman Collier
28th Little & Large & Bunny
Lewis

November

- 4th The Grumbleweeds
11th Jimmy Helms

WARREN COUNTRY CLUB 430 6176

October

- 14th The New Kings
21st Tony Stewart & Tommy
Bruce
24th The New World (1 night)
28th Blackwater Junction

November

- 4th Dave Berry
11th The Wedgewoods

BLIGHTY'S 37 72697

October

- 10th Fame & Price (4 nights)
14th Showaddy Waddy
15th Sarah Vaughan (1 night)
21st Blue Mink
28th The Grumbleweeds

November

- 4th Four Freshmen
5th Buddy Rich (1 night)
11th Charlie Williams
18th Frankie Vaughn

FAGINS 236 0265

October

- 15/ Special T.V. Show,
16th Detroit Emeralds
17th Black Abbots
22nd Design
22nd Vince Hill (2 nights)

BROADWAY 681 7333

October

- 14th Frankie Stevens
16th Sarah Vaughan (1 night)
21st Matt Munroe
28th Mark Channing, Little
& Large
29th Buddy Rich (1 night)

November

- 4th Four Freshmen
11th The Grumbleweeds

★ Lowest Denominator

SHAFT IN AFRICA X

Single handedly, Shaft destroys a slavery racket that imports road gangs from Africa to Europe. En route, he gently woos the Emir's daughter; screws the nymphomaniac girlfriend of cool super villain Frank Finlay; shows some classy work with a sub-machine gun, boot & quarter staff; & grieves over his dead dog. All that & Africa too. Apart from Julie Andrews this film has everything. In Shaft, the film moguls have found the lowest common denominator for a black hero. He will offend no-one. Between the gory close-ups & flashes of flesh, Shaft is shown as a rich, virile ("I got the longest & fattest thumbs you ever saw") American who is inoffensively & unaggressively black. Slick direction & some excellent camera work are lost on a film that so blatantly avoids tackling even the surface of racism.



★ Nice Sex

A TOUCH OF CLASS

He (George Segal) is in insurance. She (Glenda Jackson) is in the rag trade. He's been married for years & never been unfaithful to his beautiful wife once, in the same town. She's been divorced for 6 months and frankly in need of some uncomplicated, down to earth sex with someone who won't be 'a pain in the arse when it's all over'. So they holiday abroad. But male sexual cockiness & cool female indifference 'It was nice' don't exactly make for a smooth running affair. It's tantrums all the way until the inevitable falling in love bit & that's when the whole film starts to falter. The momentum of comedy & sophisticated wit is lost to the usual romantic slush & complications. The dilemma is resolved by his dubious logic 'I love her enough'.

It's funny & fast & despite its lack of originality very entertaining.



★ Managerial Intrigue

MAN AT THE TOP X

Joe Lampton (Kenneth Haigh) is the latest migrant from TV to large screen. Although some clumsy stylistic features of the film betray its TV roots it is a more successful transposition than some of the monstrosities recently inflicted on cinema goers. The plot, although remotely based on the story of D 50, a wonder-drug with nasty side effects, is of course essentially concerned with Lampton's style as working-class lad

made good. His relationship with the more orthodox members of the capitalist establishment is reduced to a simple basic formula. In the ruthless and cunning battle for survival "at the top" it is Lampton's virile brashness that inevitably outmanoeuvres the emasculated sophistication of his fellow executives. Whereas John Braine's "Room at the Top" was actually related to a social reality only rudimentary elements of this now remain in the portrayal of Joe Lampton. Judged as an average tale of managerial intrigue it is reasonably entertaining.

★ Bruce Lee R.I.P. ★ Excellent

FIST OF FURY X

East meets West in the worst of all possible combinations. Appalling melodramatic drivel with the late Bruce Lee's magnificent physique the only point of interest. Kids might like it but some token tit gives it an X certificate.

★ Refreshing

LOVE IN THE AFTERNOON AA

This film is almost another love triangle story, but not quite. The discreet association of a married man with a calculating lady is treated in a totally unpretentious & unhurried manner. It develops gently & naturally & is so well controlled that the usual dramatic flourish of falling in love is never allowed to blossom. Characters, settings & dialogue are so normal that the film could almost have been boring if it hadn't been so refreshingly unforced.



★ Bourgeois Fantasy

LAST TANGO IN PARIS X

Judging by Maria Schneider's supple limbs, on which the camera dwells with loving length, this won't be her last tango for some time. Brando, on the other hand, looks like he's about to keel over at any minute. As he gets older and stiffer in the joints, his method, always laconic, seems to be seizing up.

His slurred drawl was bad enough in The Godfather, but here he's monosyllabic as well. In brief the story is about him screwing Maria in various lustful poses, with and without butter. He doesn't even want to know her name - the ultimate male exploiter. She submits, almost gratefully used, as if their meetings were like occasional visits to the hairdressers.

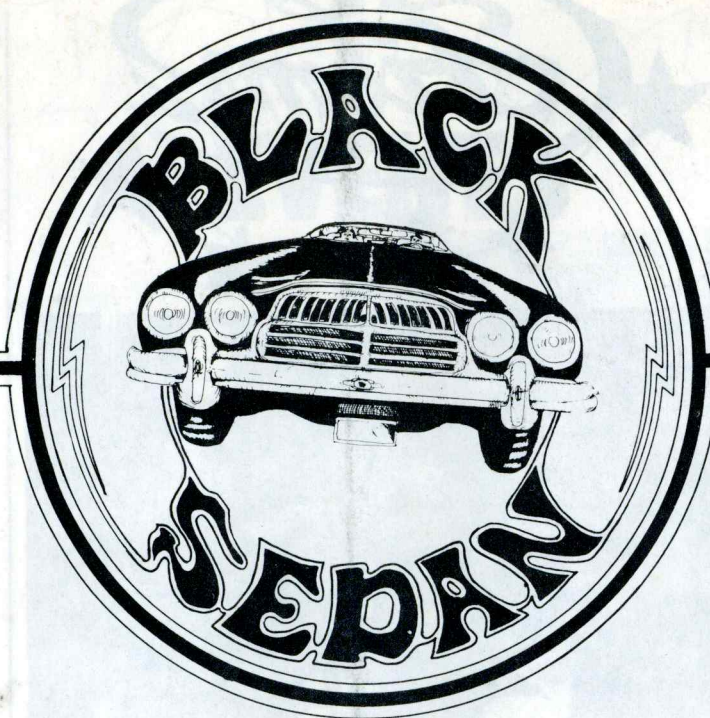
Brando, however, falls in love with his convenient lay and she reacts violently,



which supposed to be a sad ending. There are some nice shots of Paris and the colour is richly textured. But you can't help feeling that this is just another pretty piece of bourgeois fantasy.

ending. But despite the dirt it's too clean, too easy to laugh, too easy to cry. It is in turn hilarious, poignant, vicious, schmaltzy & hilarious again as the relationship between the two bums-as-lovers develops but is never fully explored. An excellent film - but surely there must be more deserving films at Cannes.





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